

ILLINOIS MASTER PLUMBER

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING • CONTRACTORS

Volume 110, No. 1

January, 2024

■ Over 160 Booths!! ■ See New Products ■ Talk to Manufacturers ■ Learn New Technologies ■

Illinois PHCC 2024 EXPO

Trade Show & Continuing Education



Friday, March 22, 2024
12:00-5:00 P.M.

Drury Lane Conference Center,
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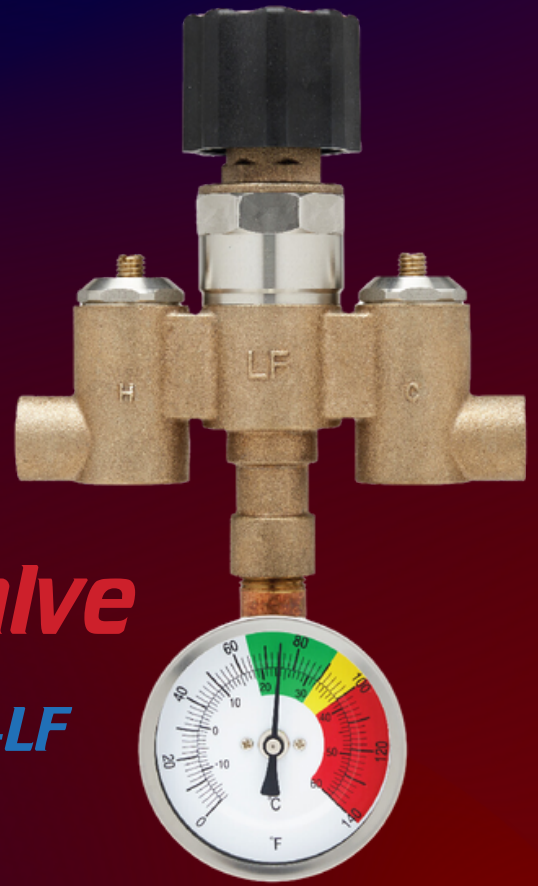
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ILLINOIS MASTER PLUMBER

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING CONTRACTORS



Volume 110, No. 1



JANUARY 2024

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Editorial and personalized news stories reflect the opinions of the writers, and not necessarily that of the Association. Neither the Association nor this magazine accepts responsibility for statements or claims made by advertisers for their products or services.

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PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

by Mike Ehret
Illinois PHCC President

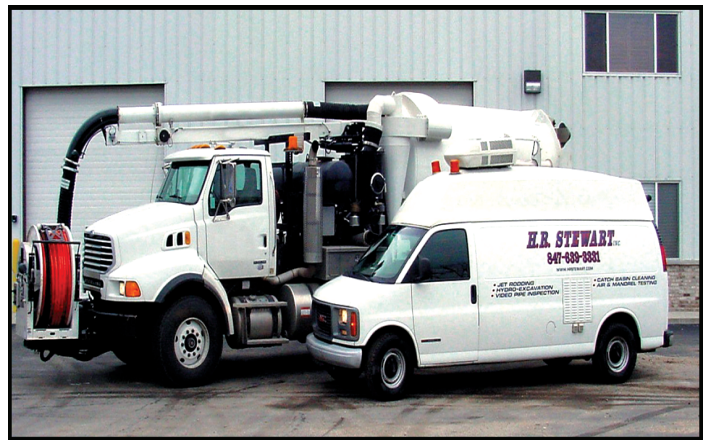
As I write this, it's 60° on Christmas Eve. No white Christmas for us down in the more Southern part of the state, and hope everyone who experienced the weather enjoyed it. We are fortunate to live in a state that has a wealth of activities and entertainment in it or close by. From college and professional sports teams, the winery and brewery trails of Southern IL, art and history museums, parks, malls, science centers, and so much more; there is something for everyone pretty much anywhere in Illinois.

A couple weeks ago, I had the pleasure of accompanying my granddaughters to the great state of Chicago, an adventurous train ride from home. The little ladies went to the American Girl doll store with my wife and daughter, while my son-in-law and I went to pay tribute to the great Harry Caray. A great time was had by all.

And for the next great time to be had by all, please see the Illinois PHCC website at ilphcc.com to get more information about our upcoming Expo & Educational Day on March 22nd. It's time to get registered for the CEU course and plan to attend the Expo. If you are a supplier or manufacturer that would like to exhibit, contact the Illinois PHCC or use the forms in this issue as there are only a few booths left. Hope to see you there.

Thanks for reading,

Mike



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IN MEMORY

Illinois PHCC Member Michael J. "Tate" Barth, 56, of Roanoke, passed away suddenly on Saturday December 2, 2023, at Carle Health Methodist Hospital in Peoria.

Mike and his brother, Joe started Tri-County Irrigation in Roanoke, IL in 1987. TCI Companies, Inc. now in Goodfield, IL, has grown into a multi-faceted company specializing in all customer's water needs. Mike served on the board of the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois as well as other organizations.

Surviving is his wife, Joyce Barth of Roanoke; two sons, Cody (Kim) Barth of Washington, IL; Tyler (Amanda) Barth of Creston, OH; two granddaughters; three brothers, Robert (Jeanie) Barth; James (Julie) Barth; Joe (Terri) Barth; two sisters, Sandra (Lee) Beer; Carol (Randy) Feucht; and his Father and Mother-in-law.

He was a member of the Roanoke Apostolic Christian Church where funeral services were held on Thursday December 7th with burial in the church cemetery.

Online condolences and tributes may be sent to the family at knappjohnsonharris.com.

The Illinois PHCC extends its sincere sympathy to the Barth family and everyone at TCI.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 13, 2024

IL PHCC Online CEU Class

JANUARY 22-24, 2024

AHR HVACR Expo
Chicago, IL

FEBRUARY 16, 2024

IL PHCC Online CEU Class

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1, 2024

CCA of PHCC Meeting
New Orleans, LA

MARCH 22, 2024

IL PHCC Expo & Educational Day
4-Hour **In-person CEU Class**
Drury Lane Conference Center
Oakbrook Terrace, IL

MARCH 23, 2024

IL PHCC & Auxiliary Board Meetings
Hilton Suites
Oakbrook Terrace, IL

APRIL 20, 2024

IL PHCC Online CEU Class

MAY 21-22, 2024

PHCC National Legislative Conference
Washington, DC



2024 ILLINOIS PHCC CEU SCHEDULE

The Illinois PHCC schedule for our remaining online and in-person classes for the 2024 renewal year is listed below. These classes offer a minimum of 3 different speakers and topics in each class.

All Illinois PHCC classes will provide State hours for Certified Inspectors and Licensed Plumbers.

Below is our current schedule of continuing education classes for Illinois licensed plumbers. Please visit our website at www.ilphcc.com for the latest information and to register for a class. Registration links will be live at least 6 weeks prior to the class date.

2024 Continuing Education Dates

Saturday, January 13, 2024
8:00 am – 12:00 pm (Online)

Friday, February 16, 2024
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Online)

Friday, March 22, 2024
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Drury Lane Conference Center,
Oakbrook Terrace, IL

Saturday, April 20, 2024 –
8:00 am – 12:00 pm (Online)

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NEW ILLINOIS LAWS

by Bev Potts

More than 300 new Illinois laws took effect on Jan. 1, 2024. They cover a range of topics from education, health, drugs, transportation and more. Here are some of the new laws that affect construction and our industry.

HB 1190 Creates new safety related requirements for the owners and operators of the underground natural gas storage facilities. Requires the installation of water separators and treatment equipment to be done by an Illinois Licensed Plumber.

HB 1236 Allows a county board in a county with a population of less than two million people, when considering a competitive bid, to take into consideration the bidder's active participation in a DOL registered apprenticeship program.

HB 2431 Provides that a person may not operate a motor vehicle while using an electronic communication device to participate in any video conference. This includes things like Zoom, WebEx, Google Meet, etc.

HB 2621 Allows the Illinois Department of Public Health to create a pilot program to enter into an agreement with a municipality that employs a State of Illinois Certified Plumbing Inspector to do inspections on behalf of the Department and submit appropriate documentation.

HB 2878 This was a large bill which included IMSCA's retainage reduction language. The provision amends the Public Construction Bond Act to provide that retainage may be withheld at a rate of 10% for the first half of a public construction project but reduced to 5% upon 50% completion. This provision will apply to every county, township, municipality,

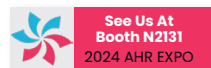


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municipal corporation, school district, school board, forest preserve district, park district, fire protection district, sanitary district, and all other local governmental units.

HB 3017 Requires the Office of Business Permits and Regulatory Assistance to improve inter-agency coordination on permit issuance, establish an online portal detailing permit status and schedules for state projects over \$20 million.

HB 3491 Changes the Prevailing Wage Act to clarify that “stipulated rates” for public work contracts are the same as “prevailing wage”.


SB 0040 Creates the Electric Vehicle Charging Act to require newly constructed single-family homes and constructed or renovated multi-unit residential buildings to include electric vehicle charging systems.

SB 1570 Creates the Municipal Design-Build Authorization Act. Provides several contracts that municipalities can enter into; sets criteria for selecting a contractor. States if the cost of a project is under \$12 million, the municipality can use a single selection process.

SB 1715 Amends the Illinois Plumbing License Law. Provides that the Department shall adopt a rule requiring that for each drinking fountain in any construction where a drinking fountain is required under the Illinois Plumbing Code, there shall also be a bottle filling station or a combined bottle filling station and drinking fountain. Even though this bill became effective on January 1, 2024, IDPH has until July 1, 2026 to adopt rules and implement this requirement. 

IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM PHCC NATIONAL

PHCC reminds all our HVAC and refrigeration contractors that the EPA will be implementing the next step in the phase down of HFC refrigerants Jan. 1, 2024. After the first of the year, the allocation of HFCs will go down another 30% for a total reduction of 40% against the baseline production quantity. To ensure a smooth continuation of operations, contractors should be engaging with their vendors to plan for future supplies of these refrigerants. In conjunction with this transition, it is becoming increasingly important to recover and reclaim refrigerants at the end of existing equipment life. Recovered HFC refrigerants are in demand and may be a source of revenue for contractors as the markets transition to new refrigerant products. Communication with your trusted industry partners and suppliers is key to future success.

Need more info? All PHCC members can view a recording of a **free webinar** covering this topic when they sign in to the PHCC Learning Management System. Please view this recording by signing in to naphcc.myabsorb.com/#/login. Email education@naphcc.org if you have not set up your account. 



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Inside Support



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IRS ISSUES STANDARD MILEAGE RATES FOR 2024

The Internal Revenue Service has issued the 2024 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2024, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 67 cents per mile driven for business use, up 1.5 cents from 2023.
- 21 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes for qualified active-duty members of the Armed Forces, a decrease of 1 cent from 2023.
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations; the rate is set by statute and remains unchanged from 2023.

These rates apply to electric and hybrid-electric automobiles as well as gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles.

The standard mileage rate for business use is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs. It is important to note that under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, taxpayers cannot claim a miscellaneous itemized deduction for unreimbursed employee travel expenses. Taxpayers also cannot claim a deduction for moving expenses, unless they are members of the Armed Forces on active duty moving under orders to a permanent change of station. For more details see [Moving expenses for members of the armed forces](#).

Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates. Taxpayers can use the standard mileage rate but generally must opt to use it in the first year the car is available for business use. Then, in later years, they can choose either the standard mileage rate or actual expenses. Leased vehicles must use the standard mileage rate method for the entire lease period (including renewals) if the standard mileage rate is chosen.

IRS Notice 2024-8 contains the optional 2024 standard mileage rates, as well as the maximum automobile cost used to calculate the allowance under a fixed and variable rate (FAVR) plan. In addition, the notice provides the maximum fair market value of employer-provided automobiles first made available to employees for personal use in calendar year 2024 for which employers may use the fleet-average valuation rule in or the vehicle cents-per-mile valuation rule.



Everyone is a Risk Manager

When it comes to risk management at the workplace, each and every person plays an important role in maintaining day-to-day safety to help maintain a solid risk management culture. From the highest executive to the newest hire, everyone should consider being a risk manager at work.

Leadership Responsibilities

Management should be committed to upholding a culture of safety and risk mitigation across the board, since these examples often stem from the top-down. Consider the following:

- Hosting regular and frequent trainings on [industry-specific safety](#) subjects to protect your bottom line.
- Giving employees the tools and incentives to take ownership in a risk management culture.
- Investing time and resources to help implement sound policies and procedures.
- Setting clear expectations, rewarding positive behavior, and encouraging open communication.
- Staying up-to-date on [current safety topics and regulations](#).
- Encouraging breaks, providing necessary tools and equipment, and [posting safety signage](#).

Employee Responsibilities

Employees play an important role too. They are on the front lines making sure work gets done in a safe manner, and will be the ones who have the most interaction with potential hazards. Their responsibilities could include:

- Listening to leaders, adhering to current policies, and participating in training.
- Practicing daily risk management habits, such as keeping up with housekeeping and watching for both [digital hazards](#) and physical.
- Leading by example so that new employees know how to work in a safe manner.
- Wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Reporting to management if they notice risks or [unsafe behaviors](#).

No matter the level of employment, everyone is a risk manager at your business. Risk management is necessary to help keep your business operating in the most efficient and safe ways possible. [Reach out to your local Federated® marketing representative](#) today for more information.

This article is for general information and risk prevention only and should not be considered legal or other expert advice. The recommendations herein may help reduce, but are not guaranteed to eliminate, any or all risk of loss. The information herein may be subject to, and is not a substitute for, any laws or regulations that may apply. Some of the services referenced herein may be provided by third parties wholly independent of Federated. Federated provides access to these services with the understanding that neither Federated nor its employees provide legal or other expert advice. All products and services not available in all states. Qualified counsel should be sought with questions specific to your circumstances and applicable laws.



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WE WILL USE THIS INFORMATION TO PROVIDE YOU WITH UPDATES ELECTRONICALLY.**

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Company: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Cost \$60.95/Code Book
(includes tabs, Plumbing License Law, Plumbers Licensing Code,
Plumbing Contractor Registration Code and
Lawn Irrigation Contractor & Lawn Sprinkler Code)

_____ of code book(s) X \$60.95

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

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Make checks payable to the Illinois PHCC.

There will be a \$40.00 service charge for any checks returned due to insufficient funds.

Questions? Contact the Illinois PHCC at bev@ilphcc.com or shelly@ilphcc.com

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IT'S YOUR LIFE

The Blended Approach

As a business owner, you may have multiple people who depend on you. Having the proper amount of life insurance can provide financial stability to those who rely on you most.

Choosing the appropriate type of [life insurance](#) depends on an individual's resources and the length of time that the protection is needed. This timeframe can be influenced by personal and business factors, such as:

- Business loans
- Cash flow for growth
- Dependent children
- Personal debt
- Education expenses
- Retirements goals

Term Life Insurance:

- Provides protection for a limited period of time, or the "term" of the policy
- Can be an affordable solution for meeting short-term protection needs
- Potential to be converted to permanent life insurance later

Universal Life Insurance:

- Permanent life insurance policies designed to last for your lifetime
- May be used for longer-term personal estate planning and business succession planning
- Builds cash value over time, which can be used for future planned and unplanned expenses
- Cash value grows tax-deferred and can be accessible through loans and withdrawals during your lifetime

Both types of life insurance pay out a death benefit that is generally [income tax-free](#) to the beneficiary of your choice. Building a life insurance portfolio that includes both term and permanent insurance can help you to afford the amount of coverage you need now and provide you supplemental income later on.

Federated® offers both types of policies, and [your marketing representative can help you learn more](#) about how they may fit into your long-term business and family goals.

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2024 Exposition Application & Contract March 22, 2024

Company Name: _____
Type or Print Company Name as it is to appear on Printed Material

Booth Preference: Indicate Booth Preference as Shown on Floor Plan.

of 8'x10' Booth spaces _____ Choices 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

All distribution of materials and placement of signs MUST stay within your assigned booth space. No solicitation will be allowed outside of your booth space. No trucks, trailers or displays will be allowed outside the entrance of Drury Lane without the permission of the Illinois PHCC.

Booth Costs: One to three booths - \$1195 each. Four or more booths - \$1155 each.

Discount price for Illinois PHCC Associate Members:

One to three booths - \$995 each. Four or more booths - \$955 each.

\$250.00 deposit per booth must accompany application form. 3% discount if full amount of booth cost is paid prior to December 31, 2023. BALANCE MUST BE PAID NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15, 2024.

Make check payable to: Illinois PHCC, 821 South Grand Ave. West, Springfield, IL 62704

Company _____

Street Address or P.O. Box _____

City / State / Zip _____

Contact _____

Phone Number _____ Cell Number _____

E-mail _____ Website _____

Signature _____

The following products or services will be displayed: _____

Space assigned on a first come, first served basis. Please furnish all information requested. Cancellation must be by mutual consent of the applicant and the Illinois PHCC. A copy of the accepted contract will be mailed to you. If the contract is canceled prior to January 1, 2024 a full refund will be made. No refunds after January 2, 2024. Booth space contracted without deposit will be made available as space is needed. Illinois PHCC will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged goods or damage to the Drury Lane Conference Center. *In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Illinois PHCC Association will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities at its meetings. Please call 800-795-7422 with any special requests.*

Booth Assignment(s) _____

Date ___/___/___ Signed: _____

Illinois PHCC Executive Director/Show Manager

Illinois PHCC Exhibitor Terms and Conditions

Management: This event is sponsored by the Illinois Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors Association (IL PHCC), herein designated as the "Management". Management has the sole authority to accept or reject an application to exhibit in any Illinois PHCC Expo and to determine which exhibitors are the best fit for attendees. An Exhibitor is an applicant for booth space that has been accepted for participation in the trade show by Management.

Booth Assignment: Management reserves the right to make all final decisions for booth assignment, layout, and configuration. Every effort will be made to assign the exhibitor's requested booth choices. Participation is at the sole discretion of Management and reserves the right to cancel any exhibitor.

Display Restrictions: All products, services, or literature displayed must fit within the allotted 8' x 10' booth space. Exhibits may not project beyond the space allotted or interfere with traffic, other exhibits, including line of sight. Exhibits may not extend into any aisle. Management reserves the right without recourse to prohibit any portion of any exhibit, which in its opinion is not suitable, or in keeping with the character of the event. This reservation of rights by Management applies to persons, things, conduct, printed matter, catalogs, and any other material relating to or affecting the event. No signs, banners, or flyers may be displayed or distributed outside of assigned booth space. The use of any public area outside of assigned booth space for the display of signage, solicitation, products, services, demonstrations, distribution of circulars, or other material is prohibited. Anyone not assigned a booth space will not be permitted to solicit business or distribute information/samples on the show floor or anywhere inside or outside the tradeshow facility. No trucks, trailers, or displays will be allowed outside the entrance of or in the parking area of the Drury Lane Conference Center without permission of the Management.

Food and Beverage: Absolutely **no** alcohol is to be given out or sold in any booth. Alcohol must be purchased from the bars provided and staffed by the trade show facility. Food and beverages must be purchased from the facility and only with prior approval of Management. Snack size or smaller candy or snacks may be given out. There is to be no use of popcorn machines, chocolate fountains, microwaves, etc. without written approval by the Management and the facility.

Liability and Insurance: Neither the Management nor the Drury Lane Conference Center will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged goods, or damage to the Drury Lane Conference Center. It is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor to obtain such insurance. Exhibitors are liable for the cost of repairing any damage to the facility caused by the exhibitor, its employees, representatives, or agents.

No Conflicts: There shall be no activities planned in conflict with this event.

Force Majeure: If the event venue or any part of the exhibit area is unavailable whether for the entire event, or a portion of the event as a result of wind, fire, flood, natural disaster or any other such cause or as a result of governmental intervention, malicious damage, acts of war, terrorism, strike, lockout, riot or other cause or agency over which Management has no control, or should Management decide that because of any such cause it is necessary to cancel, postpone, or re-site the event or reduce the exhibit time, Management shall not be liable to indemnify or reimburse the Exhibitor in respect of any damage, loss, direct or indirect, arising as a result thereof.

I agree to the above terms and conditions as well as those included on the contract.

Signature _____ Company Name _____
Date _____

REGISTER NOW FOR THE EXPO CEU CLASS

The 4-hour continuing education class prior to the opening of the Illinois PHCC Expo on March 22nd will feature multiple speakers. One of those will be Michelle Harden from the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, speaking on changes and plumbing applications of the ADA and Illinois Accessibility Code. One of the benefits of attending this in-person class is that each attendee will receive a complimentary flash drive containing the **US Access Board Technical Guide** for installing plumbing according to the ADA. This is a new document developed by the US Access Board that provides easy to understand explanations of the requirements.

Register now at www.ilphcc.com for this very informative class.



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